



**Sorption and Transport of Trenbolone and Altrenogest
Photoproducts in Soil-Water Systems**

Journal:	<i>Environmental Science: Processes & Impacts</i>
Manuscript ID	EM-ART-06-2019-000305.R1
Article Type:	Paper
Date Submitted by the Author:	28-Aug-2019
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3 **Environmental significance statement.** Trenbolone and altrenogest, two widely used veterinary
4 steroidal pharmaceuticals, react rapidly (~40s - 30min half-lives) to form phototransformation
5 products (~80% yields) upon discharge. These metastable photoproducts exhibit interesting
6 reactivity by reforming parent structures under dark conditions (~12-24 h time scales) and also
7 retain the potential to disrupt endocrine function. Here, we demonstrated that photoproducts
8 exhibited reduced sorption and enhanced transport potential than parent steroids in soil-water
9 systems, and that parent compounds can be regenerated during photoproducts transport.
10 Therefore, the treatment efficiency of traditional agricultural runoff management practices has
11 been overestimated when photoproducts of trienone steroids were not considered, and
12 phototransformation can have important environmental implications on the fate of trienone
13 steroids.
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3 **1 Sorption and Transport of Trenbolone and Altrenogest Photoproducts in Soil-Water**
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5 **2 Systems**
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8 4 Xingjian Yang^{†,§,⊥, a}, Haoqi Zhao^{§,⊥, a}, David M. Cwiertny^{||}, Edward P. Kolodziej^{*,‡, §, ⊥}
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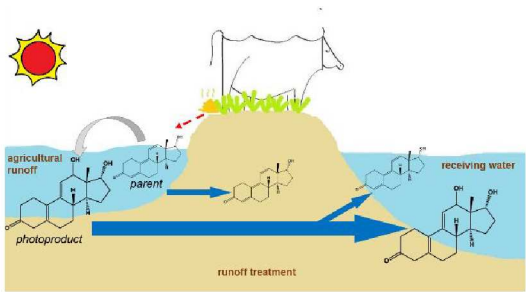
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24 **Table of contents entry**



25
26 Trenbolone and altrenogest photoproducts move faster and regenerate parents during transport
27 in soil. Traditional agricultural runoff management can exhibit lower than expected
28 efficiencies for trienone steroids when photoproducts were considered.

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4 29 **Abstract.** This study evaluated the sorption and transport potential of seven
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6 30 phototransformation products of 17α -trenbolone, 17β -trenbolone, trendione, and altrenogest,
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8 31 along with the parent trienone steroids in batch and column soil-water systems. In batch
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10 32 systems, the target solutes exhibited linear isotherms, with values for sorption coefficients
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12 33 ($\log K_{oc}$) of parent steroids (2.46-2.76) higher than those for photoproducts (1.92-2.57). In
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14 34 column systems, the estimated retardation factors (R_{sol}) for parents (2.7-5.1) were ~2-5 times
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16 35 higher than those for photoproducts (0.84-1.7). The $\log K_{oc}$ ($R^2 = 0.75$) and R_{sol} ($R^2 =$
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18 36 0.89-0.98) were well correlated with measured $\log K_{ow}$ values, indicating that hydrophobic
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20 37 partitioning governed the soil-solute interaction of these biologically potent compounds in
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22 38 soil-water systems. These data indicated that photoproducts exhibited reduced sorption
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24 39 affinity and increased transport potential relative to more hydrophobic parent structures. In
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26 40 agroecosystems, traditional runoff management practices would be expected to exhibit
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28 41 reduced treatment effectiveness for photoproducts relative to the parent compounds of
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30 42 commonly used trienone steroids.

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32 43 **Keywords:** phototransformation, polarity shift, solute stereochemistry, agricultural runoff
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34 44 treatment.
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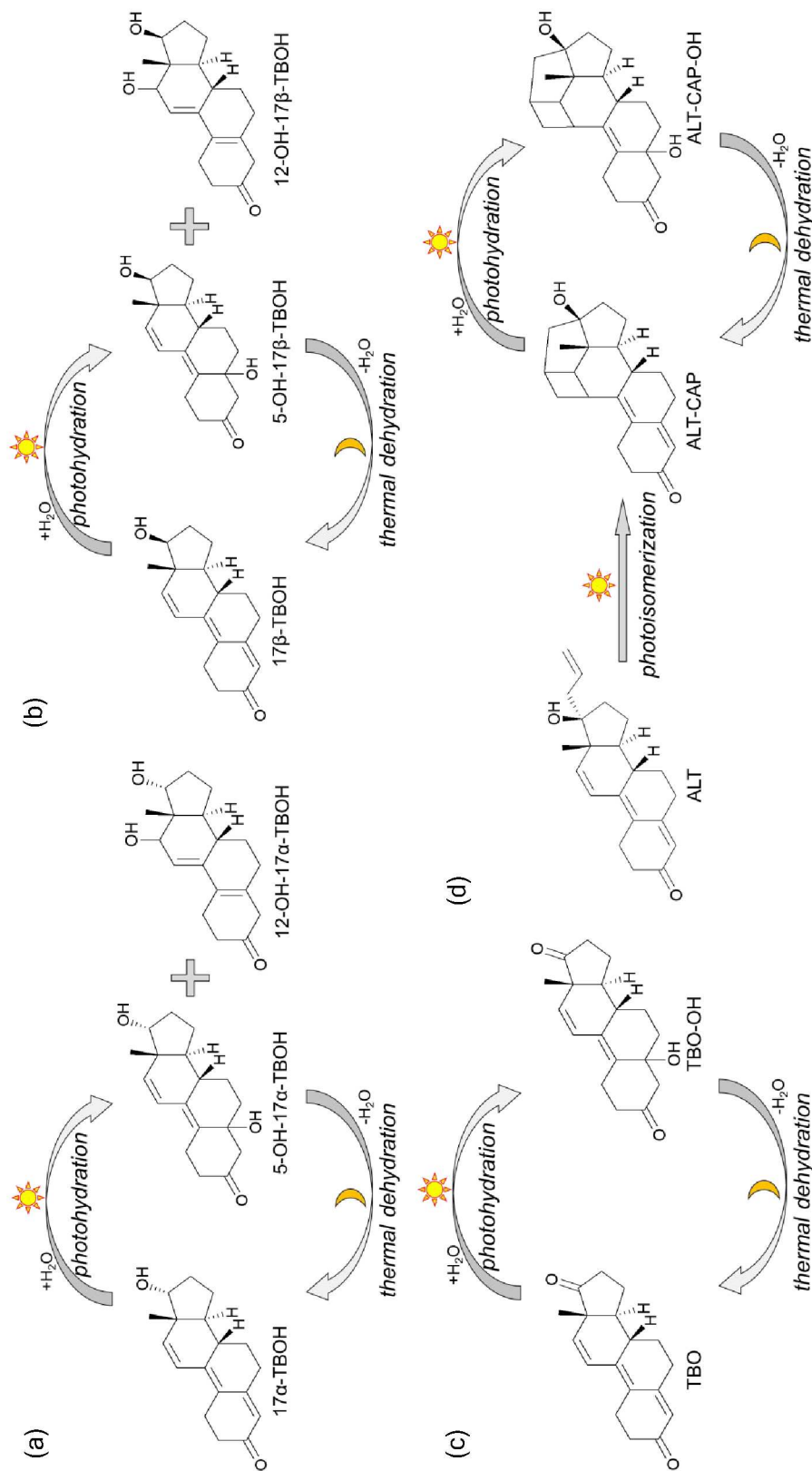
1. Introduction

The environmental discharge of potent steroidal pharmaceuticals is concerning because such compounds can disrupt endocrine function in aquatic organisms.^{1,2} Exposure to 0.8 ng/L of the progestin levonorgestrel (a human contraceptive), or 11 ng/L of the androgen 17 α -trenbolone (17 α -TBOH, a veterinary growth promoter), reduces fecundity in exposed fish.^{3,4} Trienone steroids, commonly used as agricultural and human pharmaceuticals⁵ or performance enhancing drugs,⁶ are of special concern because their conjugated trienone system greatly enhances biological potency compared to less planar steroid structures (e.g., testosterone).⁷⁻⁹ Key examples include trenbolone acetate (TBA), an anabolic androgen used as growth promoter in beef cattle production,¹⁰ and altrenogest (ALT), a synthetic progestin used as an equine and swine zootechnical pharmaceutical to maintain pregnancy, synchronize estrus for breeding, or postpone estrus after weaning.^{11,12} TBA implantation rates may exceed 20 million cattle annually in the United States,¹⁰ with estimates of over 5000 kg production and implantation-derived revenue exceeding \$1 billion.¹³

TBA is excreted into the environment as phase 1 metabolites including 17 α -TBOH, 17 β -trenbolone (17 β -TBOH), and trendione (TBO). Of these metabolites, 17 α -TBOH dominates excreted metabolite mass.¹⁰ These metabolites are subsequently detected in agroecosystems^{14,15} and transported to surrounding environments principally via precipitation and irrigation runoff,¹⁶ along with airborne particulate matter¹⁷ or manure dispersal.¹⁸ Notably, data defining the use, metabolism, and occurrence of ALT is lacking, with only a single study reporting its trace detection in municipal wastewater influent and effluent

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4 67 (0.15-0.35 ng/L),¹⁹ despite its widespread use in agricultural environments, especially for
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6 68 swine production.²⁰
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9 69 Both TBA metabolites (i.e., 17 α -TBOH, 17 β -TBOH and TBO) and ALT exhibit
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11 70 atypical phototransformations to yield a suite of potential environmental photoproducts.
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14 71 When exposed to sunlight, 17 α -TBOH and 17 β -TBOH form 5-hydroxy- and 12-hydroxy
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16 72 photoproducts (5- and 12-OH-17 α/β -TBOH), and TBO forms a single hydroxy photoproduct
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18 73 (TBO-OH, hydroxyl position unconfirmed) with ~25 min half-lives and ~80% yields.¹³ These
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21 74 photohydration products can then revert back to parent TBA metabolites in the dark via
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24 75 thermal dehydration,⁷ forming a coupled photohydration-dehydration cycle that can
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26 76 reversibly convert these steroids between parent and product structures depending on
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29 77 environmental conditions (Figure 1a-1c). ALT experiences extremely rapid photolysis (~25 s
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31 78 half-life), forming a primary cycloaddition photoproduct (ALT-CAP) via photoisomerization
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34 79 and a secondary hydroxylated photoproduct (ALT-CAP-OH) via photohydration (half-life
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36 80 ~40 s).²¹ Thermal dehydration also occurs for ALT-CAP-OH but only back to ALT-CAP; the
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38
39 81 initial photoisomerization is irreversible (Figure 1d).²¹ Therefore, in any sunlit systems, TBA
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42 82 metabolites and ALT are present in agricultural runoff not only as the parent compounds but
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45 83 also as hydroxylated and isomeric photoproducts that can have significant contributions to the
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47 84 complex mixture of steroids in agro-ecosystems.
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85 **Figure 1.** Structures and photoreaction dynamics of the trenbolone metabolites (a: 17α -TBOH; b: 17β -TBOH; c: TBO;) and d: altrenogest;
 86 including related photoproducts. The sun and moon symbols indicate sunlight (via a photoreactor) and dark conditions, respectively. Arrows show
 87 photoreaction pathways including photoisomerization and coupled photohydration-thermal dehydration.
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4 89 Before being discharged into the environment, agricultural runoff can be subject to
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6 90 different management practices (e.g., vegetated infiltration basins, riparian buffers) to
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8 91 improve water quality. Most of these processes rely upon surface or subsurface sequestration
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10 92 (i.e., hydrophobic partitioning) mechanisms to limit contaminant transport.^{18,22} The transport
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12 93 potential of contaminants in these treatment systems, which is often compared via solute
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14 94 breakthrough times or pore volumes in soil columns, is closely related to solute polarity.²³ For
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16 95 example, Goeppert et al. (2014) observed faster breakthrough of polar conjugated estrogens
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18 96 such as estrone-sulfate ($\log K_{ow} = 0.95$, 4-5 pore volume) relative to less polar estrone ($\log K_{ow}$
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20 97 = 3.10, 24-26 pore volume) and 17 β -estradiol ($\log K_{ow} = 4.01$, ~26 pore volume).²³ Vegetated
21
22 98 filter strips and subsurface infiltration have been shown to be effective at attenuating TBA
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24 99 metabolite concentrations via partitioning to soil and organic matter.^{24, 25} However, because
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26 100 the photohydration reactions increase compound polarity, the hydroxylated photoproducts
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28 101 would be expected to exhibit reduced sorption and enhanced transport potential in any of
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30 102 these soil-water treatment environments. Their potential for thermal dehydration also implies
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32 103 that highly potent parent steroids (i.e., TBA metabolites, ALT-CAP) can be regenerated
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34 104 during dark subsurface-treatment from more mobile photoproducts which act as metastable
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36 105 reservoirs of parent mass. Thus, shallow groundwater, vegetated filter strips, riparian buffers,
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38 106 and hyporheic zones may all exhibit reduced sequestration and treatment effectiveness for
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40 107 reactive trienone steroids whenever photoproducts are formed. Here in this study, we seek to
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42 108 better understand the possibility of such processes.

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54 109 Batch and column experimental systems are often used to quantify partitioning
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4 110 interactions among solutes, water, and soils during porous media transport.^{26, 27} Partitioning
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6 111 constants and transport data have not been reported for TBA metabolite photoproducts, for
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8 112 ALT, or ALT photoproducts in soil-water systems. In general, few data exist that characterize
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11 113 sorption and transport outcomes for reactive solutes or transformation products, especially
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14 114 those that lack pure standards to facilitate experimentation. Therefore, our study objectives
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16 115 were to evaluate the sorption of TBA metabolites (17α -TBOH, 17β -TBOH and TBO), ALT,
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18 116 and their seven photoproducts ($5/12$ -OH- $17\alpha/\beta$ -TBOH, TBO-OH, ALT-CAP and
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20
21 117 ALT-CAP-OH) onto a model soil and assess their short-term (several hours to 1 days, typical
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24 118 for runoff management systems) transport in soil columns as a model for subsurface runoff
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27 119 treatment. Using a novel experimental setup, we simulated coupled transformation-transport
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29 120 by generating photoproduct mixtures with a solar simulator and then infiltrating these
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32 121 mixtures to either batch soil-water systems or soil columns. These data were subsequently
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34 122 used to predict field scale transport potential and probable treatment efficacy for ALT, TBA
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37 123 metabolites, and their related photoproducts.

38 39 124 **2. Materials and methods**

40 41 42 125 **2.1 Soil and water collection**

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44 126 A silica sand-soil mixture (95:5, $w:w$, $f_{oc} = 0.06\%$) was used for batch and column
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47 127 experiments as a representative porous media (Figure 2). Loamy sand (0-30 cm) was
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50 128 collected in Pierce County, WA, USA (122.2827° W, 47.1295° N), with physical-chemical
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52 129 properties shown in Table S1. Soil was air-dried, ground, and sieved to 1 mm prior to use.
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55 130 Commercial grade silica sand (<1 mm diameter) was washed and used as is. The “model

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4 131 water” used in all of the batch and column systems was a circumneutral ($\text{pH} \approx 7.2$), low
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6 132 dissolved organic matter ($< 2 \text{ mg/L}$), low ionic strength water collected from the Snoqualmie
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9 133 River, Ollalie State Park, WA, USA (121.6533° W , 47.4372° N). This model water was used
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11 134 instead of acidic LC-MS grade water ($\text{pH} \approx 5.5$) to limit photoproduct reversion via
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13
14 135 acid-catalyzed dehydration (dehydration rates for $17\alpha\text{-TBOH}$: $0.17 \mu\text{M hour}^{-1}$ at $\text{pH} 7$ vs 0.6
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16 136 $\mu\text{M hour}^{-1}$ at $\text{pH} 5$),⁷ to limit sodium adduct formation that can affect trienone steroid
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19 137 quantification, and to use environmentally relevant water compositions (e.g., natural organic
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21 138 matter).²⁸ The soil, silica sand, and model water contained no detectable steroidal analytes.
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24 139 Chemical and reagent sources are provided in the Supporting Information (SI).

26 140 **2.2 Photoproduct quantification**

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29 141 Photoproduct standards are not commercially available, and we were unable to make
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31 142 photoproduct standards via synthetic pathways despite much effort. Therefore, calibration
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34 143 standards of photoproduct mixtures were generated immediately before each usage by
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37 144 irradiating aqueous solutions ($0.05\text{-}100 \mu\text{g/L}$) of ALT, $17\alpha\text{-TBOH}$, $17\beta\text{-TBOH}$, and TBO that
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39 145 were diluted from stock solutions (in methanol, stored in amber glass vials at -20°C) with
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42 146 sterilized (autoclaving, 121°C , 20 min) model water (methanol content $\leq 0.01\% \text{ v/v}$). The
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45 147 resulting solutions were mixtures of ALT-CAP and ALT-CAP-OH, 5-OH- and
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47 148 12-OH- $17\alpha\text{-TBOH}$, 5-OH- and 12-OH- $17\beta\text{-TBOH}$, and TBO-OH, respectively, and were
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50 149 used without any further separation. For quantitative treatment, photoproduct concentrations
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52 150 in the generated calibration standards were estimated by applying previously reported yields
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55 151 of the photoreactions to parent steroid concentrations.^{21, 28, 29} Methodology for photoproduct

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4 152 generation and liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry quantification is reported
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6 153 in the SI and elsewhere.²⁸
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8 154 **2.3 Solvent-Water Partitioning Coefficients**

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11 155 To characterize solute hydrophobicity and polarity, octanol-water (K_{ow}) and
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14 156 hexane-water (K_{hw}) partitioning coefficients were measured using the standard protocol from
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16 157 U.S. EPA (see SI).³⁰ As an apolar solvent, hexane interacts with solutes largely through
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19 158 hydrophobic interactions, while octanol, as an amphiphilic solvent, interacts with solutes
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22 159 through both hydrophobic and H-bonding interactions.³¹
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24 160 **2.4 Batch experiments**

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26 161 Photoproduct mixtures for batch experiments were generated from aqueous solutions of
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29 162 parent compounds under photoreaction conditions described above and in the SI. Sorption
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32 163 isotherms were conducted at five concentrations, with parent compounds of 0.1, 0.5, 1, 5, 10
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34 164 $\mu\text{g/L}$ and photoproducts produced from 1, 5, 10, 50, 100 $\mu\text{g/L}$ parents (specific photoproduct
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37 165 concentrations could be estimated from reported yields of the photoreactions^{21, 28, 29}). Higher
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40 166 parent mass was used in photoproduct generation due to low yields of some photoproducts
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42 167 (e.g., 6.7% yield for 5-OH-17 α -TBOH) and the higher analytical method detection limits for
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45 168 photoproducts relative to parent compounds (Table S2). A 2 g solid (sand-soil mixture) to 8
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47 169 mL water ratio was selected as an environmentally representative composition (e.g. manure
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50 170 lagoons)³² and to promote solute detection in both aqueous and solid phases. Studies were
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53 171 conducted in duplicate at each concentration. One no-soil control and one dark control (i.e.,
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55 172 non-irradiated parent solutions) also were included at each concentration to monitor
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4 173 photoproduct stability during equilibration and to detect possible experimental artifacts
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6 174 (Figure 2).
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8 175 Solid and aqueous phases were sterilized by autoclaving (121 °C, 20 min), and glassware
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10 176 by baking (450 °C, 4 h) prior to use. Batch systems were equilibrated on a rotary shaker (125
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12 177 rpm) for 22 h at 4 °C in the dark. This temperature, lower than typical (i.e., 25 °C), was
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14 178 selected to promote photoproduct stability. Equilibration times were selected based on
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16 179 literature results²² and preliminary studies designed to evaluate possible impacts of thermal
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18 180 dehydration on data quality (Figures S1, S2). However, the TBO-OH sorption was notably
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20 181 short of soil-water equilibrium at 22 h (Figure S1c), but we accepted this uncertainty because
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22 182 the error was within 25%. After equilibration, the systems were centrifuged (2500 rpm at
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24 183 4 °C, 10 min), 500 µL of supernatant was withdrawn, 0.5 ng of 17β-d₃-TBOH was added as
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26 184 internal standard, and the solution was diluted to 1 mL with methanol. The remaining
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28 185 supernatant was discarded and the sand-soil mixture was spiked with 8 ng of 17β-d₃-TBOH
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30 186 and extracted with two 4 mL methanol aliquots under ultrasound (15 min).¹⁰ Extracts were
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32 187 centrifuged and 250 µL of each supernatant was withdrawn, combined and diluted 1:1 (v/v) to
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34 188 1 mL final volume with sterilized model water for liquid chromatography-tandem mass
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36 189 spectrometry analysis.²⁸

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39 190 The resulting sorption data were fitted to linear isotherms, including only those solutes
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41 191 that were detected in both aqueous and solid phases. Due to some non-detects in the soil
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43 192 phases (Table S4), isotherms were not estimated for 5-OH- and 12-OH-17β-TBOH.

193 **2.5 Column experiments**

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4 194 Photoproducts used for soil column studies were generated by irradiating respective
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6 195 parents in a continuous flow photoreactor (a custom-built glass coil, 25 mm diameter, 700
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8 196 mL) immersed in a water bath (8-10 °C; Figure S3). Flow rates were 2.1-2.7 mL/min
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11 197 (pore-water velocity = 0.11-0.16 cm/min), yielding ~5 h hydraulic retention times and >99%
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14 198 conversion to photoproducts (~10 half-lives) in the reactors. The selected velocity also is
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16 199 representative of typical runoff velocities in agroecosystems during rainfall.³³ Notably, we
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19 200 chose step input column experiments for this study to mimic the environmentally relevant
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21 201 continuous-flow scenario where parents or photoproducts occurring in runoff are infiltrated
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24 202 into agricultural systems with shallow subsurface flows.^{25, 34, 35}

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26 203 Column experiments used two stainless steel columns (15.2 cm length, 7.62 cm diameter,
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29 204 690 mL volume) packed with the 95:5 (w:w) silica sand-soil mixture in 1-2 cm lifts, with 1.5
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31 205 cm depth of coarse silica sand and 200 mesh stainless steel screens to ensure a
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34 206 one-dimensional flow, to prevent the clogging at the column outlet, and to prevent the
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37 207 splashing of the soil material.^{36, 37} This silica-sand mixture composition was selected after a
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39 208 number of preliminary trials to enable column breakthrough over ~12 h time scales and to
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42 209 prevent data artifacts arising from photoproduct instability during longer column transport
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45 210 trials and long breakthrough trials. Six batches of column transport experiments were
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47 211 conducted representing various conditions, with one photoproduct column (photoreactor on,
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49 212 sunlit conditions) and one parent column (photoreactor off, dark conditions) for each batch
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52 213 (Figure 2). The 12 h time scale was representative of short term surface transport or
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55 214 subsurface infiltration in agricultural systems dominated by partitioning mechanisms like tile
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4 215 drains or riparian buffers. Longer (~24 h) column experiments were also conducted for
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6 216 17 α -TBOH and ALT photoproducts to validate the results. Prior to experiments, each column
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8 217 was slowly wetted (4 L) for 24 h to remove air and equilibrate the system. Despite this
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11 218 saturation, the column systems were considered to be aerobic because of the
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14 219 oxygen-saturated infiltrating water and the limited biochemical oxygen demand of the
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16 220 experimental system.³⁸ Photoproducts mixtures were introduced into columns by pumping
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19 221 photoreactor solutions (bottom feed) into the columns; effluent samples (0.5 mL) were
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21 222 collected every 10-30 min and analyzed directly after dilution with methanol (1:1 v/v) and
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24 223 addition of 0.5 ng of 17 β -d₃-TBOH. Columns were repacked with new sand-soil media
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26 224 between each trial.

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29 225 After transport studies, each column was flushed with water (~4 L) for 24 h and
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31 226 hydraulically characterized using NaBr, with similar procedures as steroid transport. Briefly,
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34 227 0.03 M NaBr solution was continuously pumped into each column under the same flow rates
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37 228 as those for transport studies, and [Br⁻] in the column effluent were measured with a bromide
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39 229 selective electrode (Hanna Co., USA).
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233 2.6 Transport modelling

234 Column transport parameters were estimated with CXTFIT 2.1,³⁹ which models solute
 235 transport by equilibrium or non-equilibrium convection-dispersion equations. Detailed
 236 theories and equations of convection-dispersion equations, physical and chemical
 237 non-equilibrium models are presented in the SI. In this study, dispersion coefficient (D) and
 238 pore-water velocity (v) values were obtained by fitting breakthrough curve data of
 239 conservative tracers to the deterministic equilibrium convection-dispersion model. Then,
 240 breakthrough curve data of solutes were fitted with the chemical non-equilibrium model to
 241 estimate retardation factors (R) (i.e., R_{mod}), fraction of “Type-1” sites contributing to
 242 instantaneous sorption (β), and ratio of column hydraulic retention time to timescales for
 243 chemical partitioning (ω). Notably, β and ω can be calculated as:

$$244 \quad \beta = \frac{\theta + f\rho_b K_d}{\theta + \rho_b K_d} \quad (1)$$

$$245 \quad \omega = \frac{\alpha(1 - \beta)RL}{v} \quad (2)$$

246 where ρ_b (g/cm³) and θ (cm³/cm³) represent soil bulk density and volumetric water content,
 247 respectively. f is the fraction of exchange sites that are always at equilibrium. K_d (L/kg) is the
 248 linear distribution coefficient. α is a first-order kinetic rate coefficient (min⁻¹).

249 To facilitate quantitative comparison of transport potential between parents and
 250 photoproducts, R also was estimated by two other approaches.³⁹⁻⁴¹ First, a theoretical
 251 retardation factor (R_{cal}) was calculated with column parameters and sorption coefficients
 252 derived from batch systems³⁹

$$253 \quad R_{cal} = 1 + \frac{\rho_b K_d}{\theta} \quad (1)$$

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4 254 Alternatively, retardation factors (i.e., R_{sol}) have been estimated as the number of pore
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6 255 volume (or times) when the measured breakthrough curve achieved 50% recovery,⁴¹ or by
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8 256 comparing the breakthrough pore volume (or time) (pore volume or time at which 50%
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11 257 recovery is achieved) of column solutes to that of the tracers.⁴⁰ These estimation methods
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14 258 were slightly modified in this study because some solutes did not attain complete
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16 259 breakthrough ($C/C_0 = 1$) over the 12-24 h time scales (discussed below). Here, we estimated
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19 260 R_{sol} as the ratio of the apparent breakthrough pore volumes of column solutes to that of the
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21 261 tracers: breakthrough of solutes represents the pore volumes at which solute concentrations
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24 262 reached half of the concentrations for the last effluent sample (i.e., last data point of
25
26 263 breakthrough curves), and that of tracers represents the pore volumes at which tracer
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29 264 concentrations reached half of the equilibrium concentrations.
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31 265 **3. Results and discussion**

32 266 **3.1 Octanol-Water (K_{ow}) and hexane-water (K_{hw}) partitioning coefficients**

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34 267 Measured solvent-water partitioning coefficients ($\log K_{ow}$ and $\log K_{hw}$ values) for
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36
37 268 trenbolone, ALT and photoproducts were summarized in Table 1 along with published data²²,
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39 269 ⁴² and estimates by SPARC. Experimentally measured $\log K_{ow}$ and $\log K_{hw}$ values were only
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42 270 available for 17 α -TBOH, 17 β -TBOH, and TBO; the results in this study ($\log K_{ow}$: 17 α -TBOH:
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44 271 2.70 ± 0.03 , 17 β -TBOH: 2.95 ± 0.02 , TBO: 2.60 ± 0.02 ; $\log K_{hw}$: 17 α -TBOH: -0.29 ± 0.01 ,
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46 272 17 β -TBOH: -0.26 ± 0.02 , TBO: 0.78 ± 0.04) were consistent with reported values ($\Delta \log K_{ow} <$
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48 273 0.13 , $\Delta \log K_{hw} < 0.27$).²² $\log K_{ow}$ and $\log K_{hw}$ values of ALT were 3.74 ± 0.05 and 1.31 ± 0.02 ,
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51 274 about one log unit higher than values for TBA metabolites and consistent with ALT's larger
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4 275 molar volume (via ACD/Labs Percepta Platform: ALT 269.8 cm³; TBOH 226 cm³, TBO 225
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6 276 cm³).

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9 277 Among photoproducts, ALT photoproducts exhibited the highest log K_{ow} values
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11 278 (2.88-3.25), followed by 17 α -TBOH (1.73-2.09), 17 β -TBOH (1.64-1.83), and TBO (1.25)
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14 279 photoproducts. Notably, the log K_{ow} of TBO and TBO-OH showed the largest disparity
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16 280 (Δ log K_{ow} of 1.35) among the observed parent-photoproduct pairs (Δ log K_{ow} : 17 α -TBOH pair,
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18 281 0.61-0.97; 17 β -TBOH pair, 1.12-1.31; ALT-CAP pair, 0.37). Unlike any other parent
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21 282 compound, TBO is only a hydrogen bond acceptor but not a donor; addition of a hydroxyl
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24 283 group during photoreaction allows TBO-OH to both donate and accept H-bonds and enhance
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26 284 hydrophilicity. Our observations also indicated that C-17 hydroxyl group stereochemistry
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29 285 impacts the H-bonding interactions and potentials for two-phase partitioning. Despite the
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32 286 inverse trend observed for parents (log K_{ow} : 17 α -TBOH < 17 β -TBOH), 17 α -TBOH
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34 287 photoproducts unexpectedly exhibited higher measured log K_{ow} values than 17 β -TBOH
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37 288 photoproducts. Unfortunately, these observations could not be extended to the hexane-water
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40 289 system, as log K_{hw} values for photoproducts were not available due to photoproduct
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42 290 non-detects in hexane even after pre-concentration.

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44 291 Notably, although estimated and measured log K_{ow} values of 5-OH photoproducts were
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47 292 similar, estimated log K_{ow} for trenbolone, ALT, ALT-CAP, and 12-OH photoproducts were
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50 293 consistently higher than observed values by up to one log unit (Table 1). Thus, platforms like
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52 294 SPARC may struggle to accurately predict the polarity difference between parents and
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55 295 photoproducts or between structural isomers like 5-OH and 12-OH. In addition, while the
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4 296 measured $\log K_{ow}$ and $\log K_{hw}$ values were different for 17 α - and 17 β - TBOH stereoisomers
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6 297 and the 5- and 12-OH photoproducts, SPARC could not differentiate solvent-water
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9 298 partitioning values for these stereoisomer pairs (Table 1). Such stereochemistry effects
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11 299 remain poorly resolved in most computational models (e.g. SPARC, PaDEL, KOWWIN),
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14 300 and relative predictions for stereoisomers should be used somewhat cautiously. Additional
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16 301 stereochemical resolution in such models may be merited to improve accuracy. Based on the
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19 302 above measured values, and consistent with our expectations of reduced partitioning and
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21 303 enhanced transport potential, the coupled photohydration - thermal dehydration reactions do
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24 304 shift hydrophobicity by $\log K_{ow}$ 0.6-1.4 in magnitude when comparing the more polar
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26 305 photoproducts (measured $\log K_{ow}$ of 1.25-3.25) to parents ($\log K_{ow}$ of 2.60-3.74).
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306 **Table 1.** Estimated solvent-water partitioning coefficients and soil-water partitioning parameters for TBA metabolites, ALT, and related
 307 photoproducts.

	log K_{ow}		log K_{hw}			linear isotherm					
	result	<i>Khan et al.</i> ¹	SPARC	result	<i>Khan et al.</i> ¹	SPARC	mass balance (%)	R ²	K_d	log K_{oc}	<i>Khan et al.</i> ¹ log K_{oc}
17 α -TBOH	2.70 \pm 0.03	2.72 \pm 0.02	3.63	-0.29 \pm 0.01	-0.114 \pm 0.006	1.18	97 \pm 10	0.90	1.72 \pm 0.13	2.46 \pm 0.03	2.77 \pm 0.12
5-OH-17 α -TBOH	1.73 \pm 0.02	-	1.63	< -3.94 ^a	-	-2.49	125 \pm 9	0.99	0.50 \pm 0.01	1.92 \pm 0.01	NA ^b
12-OH-17 α -TBOH	2.09 \pm 0.06	-	3.22	< -3.55	-	0.91		0.94	0.81 \pm 0.07	2.13 \pm 0.04	NA
17 β -TBOH	2.95 \pm 0.02	3.08 \pm 0.03, 3.09 ²	3.63	-0.26 \pm 0.02	-0.050 \pm 0.010	1.18	87 \pm 11	0.91	1.88 \pm 0.20	2.50 \pm 0.05	3.08 \pm 0.10
5-OH-17 β -TBOH	1.64 \pm 0.17	-	1.63	< -3.75	-	-2.49	89 \pm 16	NI ^c	NI	NI	NA
12-OH-17 β -TBOH	1.83 \pm 0.02	-	3.22	< -5.50	-	0.91		NI	NI	NI	NA
TBO	2.60 \pm 0.02	2.63 \pm 0.05	3.15	0.78 \pm 0.04	1.045 \pm 0.033	1.9	104 \pm 8	0.96	3.48 \pm 0.17	2.76 \pm 0.02	3.38 \pm 0.19
TBO-OH	1.25 \pm 0.04	-	1.58	-2.12	-	-1.72	166 \pm 42	0.92	1.02 \pm 0.07	2.23 \pm 0.03	NA
ALT	3.74 \pm 0.05	-	4.67	1.31 \pm 0.02	-	2.47	102 \pm 9	0.99	3.14 \pm 0.07	2.72 \pm 0.01	NA
ALT-CAP	3.25 \pm 0.02	-	4.25	0.23 \pm 0.02	-	2.13	108 \pm 7	0.94	2.25 \pm 0.15	2.57 \pm 0.03	NA
ALT-CAP-OH	2.88 \pm 0.15	-	2.5	< -3.73	-	-1.53	91 \pm 29	0.99	0.71 \pm 0.02	2.07 \pm 0.01	NA

308 ¹ Khan, et al. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* **2009**, 43 (23), 8827–8833.

309 ² Qu, et al. *J. Agric. Food Chem.* **2014**, 62 (51), 12277-12286.

310 ^a Photoproducts were not detected in hexane phase. The upper limit of K_{hw} is estimated based on the instrument detection limits of photoproducts.

311 ^b NA = not analyzed, photoproducts were not evaluated in the previous study.

312 ^c NI = not included, isotherms for 17 β -TBOH photoproducts were not generated due to low detection rates in soil samples.

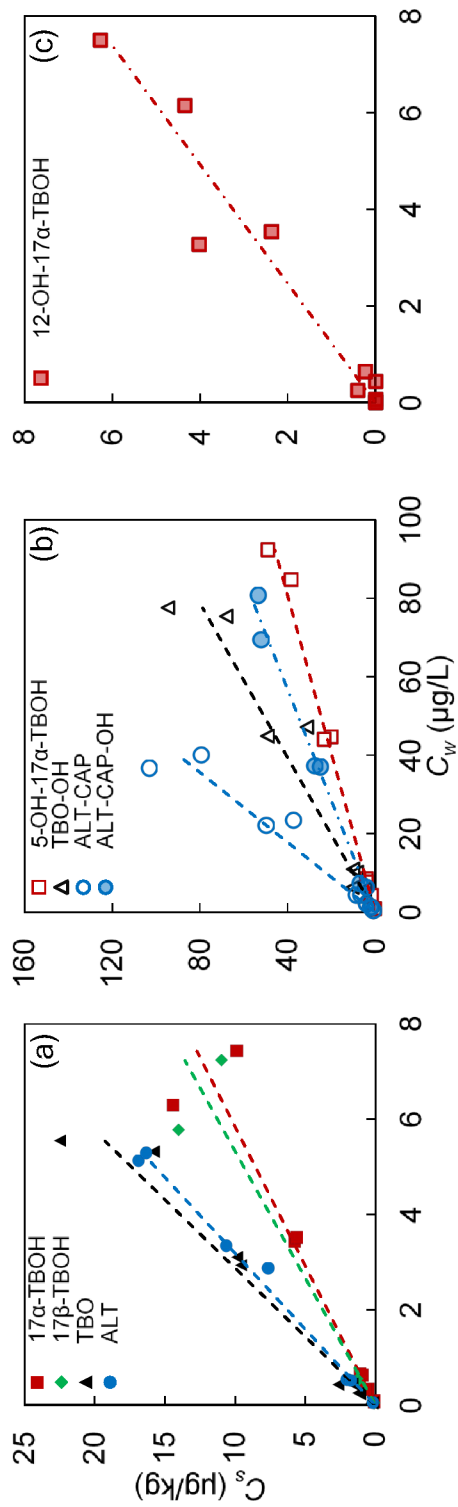
313 3.2 Batch experiments

314 Near 100% mass recovery was observed in batch soil-water systems. Recoveries were 87
315 $\pm 11\%$ to $104 \pm 8\%$ for parent steroids and $89 \pm 16\%$ to $166 \pm 42\%$ for photoproducts (Table
316 1, S3, S4). Photoproducts were not detected in dark controls and were typically stable in the
317 no-soil controls (Table S4). However, despite silanization, recoveries for parents and
318 photoproducts in no-soil controls were often lower (Table S3, S4) than expected. Solvent
319 washes subsequently indicated that up to 50-65% of the input mass was sorbed onto the
320 glassware in the absence of a competing soil matrix, and 0-30% when soil was present (Table
321 S5). Partitioning to glassware may thus yield a slight positive bias in some partitioning
322 estimates (overestimating partitioning potential). Such effects become evident, especially at
323 lower input masses, via comparison to no-soil controls, and may be masked in those studies
324 using high sorbate concentrations (μM - mM concentrations).^{22, 42}

325 Partitioning data for TBA metabolites, ALT, and photoproducts were well approximated
326 ($R^2 > 0.90$) by linear isotherms (Figure 3, Table 1). Consistent with previous observations,^{22,}
327 ^{43, 44} isotherm linearity indicated that hydrophobic partitioning dominated solute interactions
328 with soil-sand media. Among parent TBA metabolites, TBO showed the highest sorption
329 capacity ($\log K_{oc}$: 2.76 ± 0.02), followed by 17β -TBOH ($\log K_{oc}$: 2.50 ± 0.05) and 17α -TBOH
330 ($\log K_{oc}$: 2.46 ± 0.03), consistent with prior studies ($\log K_{oc}$: 3.38 for TBO, 3.08 for
331 17β -TBOH, 2.77 for 17α -TBOH).²² The $\log K_{oc}$ of ALT was 2.72 ± 0.01 . The higher sorption
332 potential observed for TBO is likely related to its monopolar structure (less capable of
333 H-bond donation versus the bipolar $17\alpha,\beta$ -TBOH), and is consistent with its higher $\log K_{hw}$

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4 334 value but weakly correlated to its lower $\log K_{ow}$ compared to 17 α -TBOH and 17 β -TBOH
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6 335 (Table 1). 17 α -TBOH and 17 β -TBOH showed similar capacities for sorption ($\Delta\log K_{oc}$: 0.04),
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8 336 which also scaled with their similar $\log K_{hw}$ ($\Delta\log K_{hw}$: 0.03) values but did not scale with their
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11 337 $\log K_{ow}$ values ($\Delta\log K_{ow}$: 0.25). We note the sorption potentials of TBA metabolites are better
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14 338 estimated by $\log K_{hw}$ values rather than $\log K_{ow}$, indicating the contribution of hydrophobic
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16 339 partitioning to partitioning. This observation contrasts with prior reports of $\log K_{oc}$ for
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19 340 17 α -TBOH and 17 β -TBOH,²² and may be a concentration dependent effect (\sim 0.1-10 $\mu\text{g/L}$
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21 341 here versus \sim 4-500 $\mu\text{g/L}$ elsewhere). 17 β -TBOH exhibited higher sorption capacities than
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24 342 TBO in the Freundlich isotherms reported by Qu et al, (K_f : 0.98 for 17 β -TBOH, 0.61 for
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26 343 TBO, 0.39 for 17 α -TBOH), which may reflect the different soil types used or isotherm
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29 344 non-linearity effects (1/n of 0.63-0.85 in the Freundlich isotherms).⁴²
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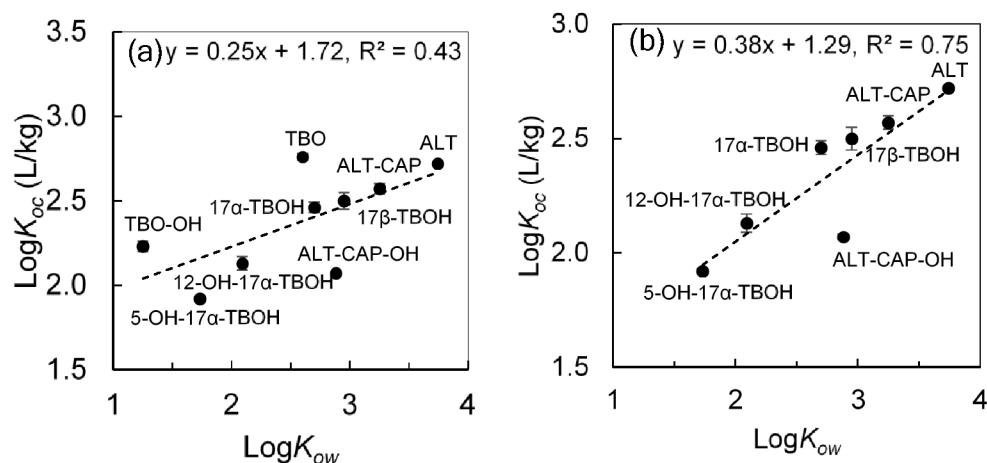
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32 345 Photoproducts, based on the K_{oc} values, sorbed by a factor of 2-3 less than parent
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34 346 compounds. Observed $\log K_{oc}$ values for photoproducts scaled with sorption capacities of
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37 347 parent steroids, with the more hydrophobic ALT photoproducts exhibiting the highest
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39 348 sorption capacities, followed by TBO and 17 α -TBOH photoproducts ($\log K_{oc}$: ALT-CAP
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42 349 (2.57 ± 0.03) > TBO-OH (2.23 ± 0.03) > 12-OH-17 α -TBOH (2.13 ± 0.04) > ALT-CAP-OH
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44 350 (2.07 ± 0.01) > 5-OH-17 α -TBOH (1.92 ± 0.01)). Notably, the observed $\log K_{oc}$ disparities
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47 351 were quite similar between the parent-photoproduct pairs ($\Delta\log K_{oc}$: 17 α -TBOH pair,
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49 352 0.33-0.54; TBO pair, 0.53; ALT-CAP pair, 0.50) despite the larger differences in $\Delta\log K_{ow}$.
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52 353 The lack of $\log K_{hw}$ values for photoproducts (discussed above) precluded further analysis.
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 355 **Figure 3.** Linear isotherms for: (a) TBA metabolites, ALT and (b,c) related photoproducts. 12-OH-17 α -TBOH had a lower concentration range
 356 in (c) due to lower photoreaction yield. C_w and C_s are aqueous and solid phase concentrations of the solutes, respectively. Note the different X
 357 and Y axis scales across the figures.

358 Despite the subtle difference within parent compounds, these batch studies indicate that
 359 the sorption potential of parents and photoproducts, as quantified by $\log K_{oc}$ values, generally
 360 scaled with their $\log K_{ow}$ values ($p = 0.056$; Figure 4a) except for TBO. Excluding TBO and
 361 TBO-OH, $\log K_{oc}$ values were significantly correlated ($p < 0.05$) with $\log K_{ow}$ values (R^2 of
 362 0.75, Figure 4b). This relationship was used to predict the potential mobility of moderately
 363 hydrophobic steroids under different soil-water conditions and related implications for
 364 agricultural runoff treatment. These correlations, as suggested elsewhere,³¹ again imply
 365 hydrophobic partitioning as the dominant steroid-soil interaction mechanism, although the
 366 outlier behavior of TBO may arise from potential contributions of H-bonding or other
 367 specific interactions contributing to partitioning.

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370 **Figure 4.** Observed correlations between (a) $\log K_{oc}$ and $\log K_{ow}$ of TBA metabolites, ALT,

371 and photoproducts and (b) repeat correlations but with outlier values for TBO and TBO-OH

372 removed. Error bars represent standard deviations.

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374 3.3 Column experiments

375 Column studies were used to evaluate the transport of parents and photoproducts over
376 ~12-24 h time scales in a coupled reaction-transport system. This dynamic scenario is
377 expected to be environmentally relevant, in which photoproducts are generated in runoff and
378 then be continuously infiltrated into agricultural management systems. TBO was not studied
379 in detail due to its outlier behavior in batch systems. NaBr tracer tests (N = 8, mass recoveries
380 of ~100%) were conducted after each column study (Table S6). Notably, the breakthrough
381 curves of tracer were slightly shifted toward the Y-axis (Figure S4), indicating possible
382 preferential flow in the columns.⁴⁵⁻⁴⁷ This observation was probably due to nonuniform
383 packing or some trapped air bubbles in the column media arising during saturation. Despite
384 the observed preferential flow, the breakthrough curves (N =8) of tracers were well
385 represented by the deterministic equilibrium convection-dispersion model ($R^2 = 0.996-0.997$,
386 Table S6).⁴⁸ The measured (0.11-0.16 cm/min) and estimated v values (0.15-0.21 cm/min) for
387 all experiments were similar, and the estimated D values were consistent (0.07-0.20
388 cm^2/min), indicating similar hydrodynamic properties during these experiments (Table S6).

389 **Table 2.** Transport parameters for target solutes in column studies derived from a two-site non-equilibrium model.

column	solute	R_{cal}^a	R_{sol}^b	two-site non-equilibrium model			
				R_{mod}^c	β^e	ω^f	R ²
dark	17 α -TBOH	7.7 \pm 0.7	2.7 \pm 1.2	14 \pm 0.6	0.18 \pm 0.02	1.4 \pm 0.15	0.96-0.99
control	17 β -TBOH	8.4	3.0	21	0.12	2.76	0.99
	ALT	13 \pm 1.1	5.1 \pm 2.2	23 \pm 2	0.19 \pm 0.04	2.2 \pm 0.60	0.93-0.99
light	5-OH-17 α -TBOH	3.0 \pm 0.20	1.1 \pm 0.16	NE ^d	NE	NE	0.90-0.95
	12-OH-17 α -TBOH	4.2 \pm 0.33	1.3 \pm 0.09	NE	NE	NE	0.92-0.96
	17 α -TBOH	7.8 \pm 0.84	1.7 \pm 0.44	NE	NE	NE	0.97-0.98
	5-OH-17 β -TBOH	NE	0.84	NE	NE	NE	0.98
	12-OH-17 β -TBOH	NE	1.05	NE	NE	NE	0.99
	17 β -TBOH	7.7	1.26	NE	NE	NE	0.98
	ALT-CAP	9.8 \pm 0.84	1.7 \pm 0.47	NE	NE	NE	0.95-0.99
	ALT-CAP-OH	3.8 \pm 0.26	1.0 \pm 0.12	NE	NE	NE	0.84-0.99
	ALT	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE

390 ^{a,c} R_{cal} and R_{mod} represent retardation factors obtained from calculation and modelling, respectively.391 ^b R_{sol} represents retardation factors obtained by dividing pore volume of steroids at 50% of the concentration for the last effluent sample to that of the tracer.392 ^d NE = Not estimated.393 ^e β represents the fraction of “Type-1” sites contributing to instantaneous sorption394 ^f ω is the ratio of column hydraulic retention time to timescales for chemical partitioning.

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4 395 *Column transport for parent steroids.* Although breakthrough curves are usually
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6 396 modelled upon reaching equilibrium (i.e., complete breakthrough, $C/C_0 = 1$),^{49, 50} we focused
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8 397 on the initial 12-24 h transport periods more characteristic of photoproduct half-lives and
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10 398 typical of short term field-scale scenarios (e.g., surface runoff) and agricultural management
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12 399 systems (12 h transport for experiment #1-3, and 24 h transport for experiment #4-6).^{24, 25}
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14 400 Parent transport data were modeled with two-site chemical non-equilibrium models ($R^2 =$
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16 401 0.99; Table 2, Figure 5). In “light” columns, observed parents (i.e., 17 α -TBOH and
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18 402 17 β -TBOH) were generated only via photoproduct dehydration, resulting in higher effluent
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20 403 concentrations relative to influents. As the CXTFIT program cannot model such coupled
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22 404 photoproducts reversion-transport (or parents generation-transport) dynamics accurately, only
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24 405 R_{cal} and R_{sol} values were estimated for parent steroids in the light columns (discussed below).
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26 406 For all experiments, the observed β and ω values for parents ranged from 0.12 to 0.19 ± 0.04
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28 407 and 1.4 ± 0.15 to 2.76, respectively, indicating that chemical non-equilibrium and many
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30 408 rate-limited “Type-2” sorption sites ($\geq 81\%$) existed in the columns.^{51, 52} For ~12 h column
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32 409 trials, the recoveries (i.e., C/C_0) of 17 β -TBOH, 17 α -TBOH, and ALT in dark columns were
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34 410 consistently ~20%, 50%, and 25% after 12 h (Figure 5a-5c). Under longer transport times
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36 411 (experiments #4-6, >24 h), the recoveries of 17 α -TBOH and ALT in dark columns reached
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38 412 ~80% and 42-59%, respectively, suggesting good reproducibility across trials (Figure 5d-5f).
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40 413 At these timescales (<24 h), complete breakthrough was not achieved and ALT exhibited
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42 414 more retardation in columns relative to 17 α - and 17 β -TBOH. R_{mod} values for 17 β -TBOH,
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44 415 17 α -TBOH, and ALT were 21, 14 ± 0.6 , and 23 ± 2 , respectively, consistent with C/C_0 ,
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4 416 $\log K_{ow}$, and K_{oc} trends across all parent steroids (Table 2). Notably, the ratio of observed R_{mod}
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6 417 for 17β -TBOH to 17α -TBOH (i.e., 1.4-1.6) in dark columns was clearly larger than the ratio
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8 418 of respective K_{oc} values (i.e., 1.1) derived from batch systems, indicating that solute
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10 419 stereochemistry clearly affects transport in porous media. As column systems had higher
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12 420 soil/water ratios relative to batch systems (2.4:1 versus 0.25:1), more soil mass in columns
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14 421 (i.e., more sites for binding) may have promoted additional interactions of 17β -TBOH to the
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16 422 soil (relative to 17α -TBOH), leading to more separation of 17α - and 17β -TBOH during
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18 423 column transport versus expectations from batch data.

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21 424 R_{sol} values for 17β -TBOH, 17α -TBOH, and ALT were 3.0, 2.7 ± 1.2 , and 5.1 ± 2.2 ,
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23 425 respectively, consistent with R_{mod} trends across all parent steroids and indicating that R_{sol}
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25 426 estimates also were accurate for these solutes and can be extended to photoproducts. For
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27 427 experiments #1, #2, #3, and #5, R_{sol} values for 17α -TBOH and 17β -TBOH obtained from
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29 428 dark control columns were larger than respective R_{sol} values for these same steroids obtained
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31 429 from light columns. For example, R_{sol} values for 17α -TBOH obtained from light and dark
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33 430 columns were 1.8 and 2.2 (experiment #2) (RSD = 14.1%), respectively, while those for
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35 431 17β -TBOH obtained from light and dark columns were 1.3 and 3.0 (experiment #1),
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37 432 respectively. For light columns, the influent concentrations of 17α - and 17β -TBOH were very
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39 433 low (i.e., >99% parents transformed), so column effluent data for parent steroids were
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41 434 especially sensitive to dehydration (i.e., regeneration of parents during transport). R_{sol} ratio
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43 435 for 17β -TBOH (experiment #1) in dark control and light columns was 2.4, relative to $1.5 \pm$
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45 436 0.3 observed for 17α -TBOH (experiment #2, 3, and 5; data not shown), which indicated that

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4 437 some 17α -TBOH and 17β -TBOH regenerated from photoproducts via dehydration during
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6 438 transport. The data values indicate that such regenerated parents must have transported
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8 439 through shorter column distances relative to results from dark columns. Lower observed R_{sol}
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10 440 ratios for 17α -TBOH, also indicated that dehydration rates for 17α -TBOH photoproducts
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12 441 were faster than that for 17β -TBOH photoproducts, consistent with prior expectations.⁷
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16 442 As volumetric water content and bulk density values for each column trial were similar,
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18 443 R_{cal} values obtained from different experiments were internally consistent (Table 2). The
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20 444 average R_{cal} values for 17α -TBOH, ALT, and 17β -TBOH were 7.7 ± 0.7 , 13 ± 1.1 , and 8.4,
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22 445 respectively, lower than R_{mod} obtained from modelling (14 ± 0.6 , 23 ± 2 , and 21, respectively)
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24 446 but with consistent trends as R_{mod} . As reported previously, differences in observed R_{mod} and
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26 447 R_{cal} values were attributed to experimental conditions and models used for batch and column
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28 448 systems.⁵³⁻⁵⁶ For example, R_{cal} was estimated from K_d , a coefficient obtained under
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30 449 equilibrium conditions, whereas R_{mod} was estimated under equilibrium, physical
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32 450 non-equilibrium, or chemical non-equilibrium conditions that were highly dependent on the
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34 451 morphologies of breakthrough curves.⁵⁴ Different soil-water ratios and soil-solute contact
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36 452 times in batch and column systems also can contribute to disparate R_{mod} and R_{cal} values.⁵⁷
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38 453 Moreover, our study modelled transport data where complete breakthrough was not achieved
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40 454 (i.e. we selected experimental time scales to minimize photoproduct dehydration effects), so
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42 455 the estimated R_{mod} values were likely to exhibit a slight high bias. Similar observations were
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44 456 reported elsewhere, e.g., higher R_{mod} values for sodium dodecyl benzene sulfonate and
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46 457 propranolol were obtained at column effluent recoveries of 60% and 50%, respectively,
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4 458 relative to complete breakthrough.^{49, 58} Overall, the estimated C/C_0 , R_{mod} , R_{sol} , and R_{cal} data
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6 459 consistently indicated that ALT exhibited higher retardation (slower transport) in columns,
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9 460 followed by 17 β -TBOH and 17 α -TBOH.

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11 461 *Column transport for photoproducts.* Interpretation of transport parameters for
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14 462 photoproducts was complicated by uncertainties and biases in measured photoproducts
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16 463 concentrations. Notably, the mass balances of photoproducts in column influents and
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19 464 effluents were higher than expected for the nominal masses. These observations arise from
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22 465 detector response variation, matrix effects arising from organic matter/ions leaching from soil
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24 466 columns, and the lack of pure standards or matched isotopic internal standards for the
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27 467 photoproducts. Also, cleanup procedures (e.g., SPE) were not employed for the column
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29 468 studies; samples were injected directly, which may have contributed some error.

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31 469 For these cases, R_{mod} , β , and ω parameters for the photoproducts are more uncertain
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34 470 because CXTFIT is sensitive to solute input concentrations and the analytical challenges for
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37 471 metastable photoproducts preclude highly accurate quantification of input concentrations. To
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40 472 address this uncertainty, we only calculated R_{sol} and R_{cal} from the breakthrough curves. R_{sol}
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42 473 values for the photoproducts 5-OH-17 α -TBOH, 12-OH-17 α -TBOH, 5-OH-17 β -TBOH,
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44 474 12-OH-17 β -TBOH, ALT-CAP-OH, and ALT-CAP were 1.1 ± 0.16 , 1.3 ± 0.09 , 0.84, 1.05,
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47 475 1.0 ± 0.12 , and 1.7 ± 0.47 , respectively. Notably, R_{sol} value for 5-OH-17 α -TBOH,
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50 476 5-OH-17 β -TBOH, 12-OH-17 β -TBOH, and ALT-CAP-OH were close to or even less than 1.
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52 477 R_{sol} value was generally both sensitive to the breakthrough of tracer and solutes. In any
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55 478 column trials where complete breakthrough was not achieved, the R_{sol} values for

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4 479 photoproducts were expected to be lower than those obtained under complete breakthrough
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6 480 conditions. Additionally, 5-OH-17 α -TBOH, 5-OH-17 β -TBOH, 12-OH-17 β -TBOH, and
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9 481 ALT-CAP-OH are expected to be much more polar than their respective parents. Therefore,
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11 482 these combined factors have resulted in overall lower R_{sol} values of these photoproducts (i.e.,
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13 483 R_{sol} values were near or less than 1 for these four photoproducts). In addition, the average R_{cal}
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16 484 for 5-OH-17 α -TBOH, 12-OH-17 α -TBOH, ALT-CAP-OH, and ALT-CAP were 3.0 ± 0.2 , 4.2
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18 485 ± 0.33 , 3.8 ± 0.26 , and 9.8 ± 0.84 , respectively (Table 2). Consistent with their reduced
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21 486 hydrophobicity, all observed soil column data indicated that these photoproducts exhibited
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24 487 reduced retardation and faster transport in soil columns relative to parent steroids.

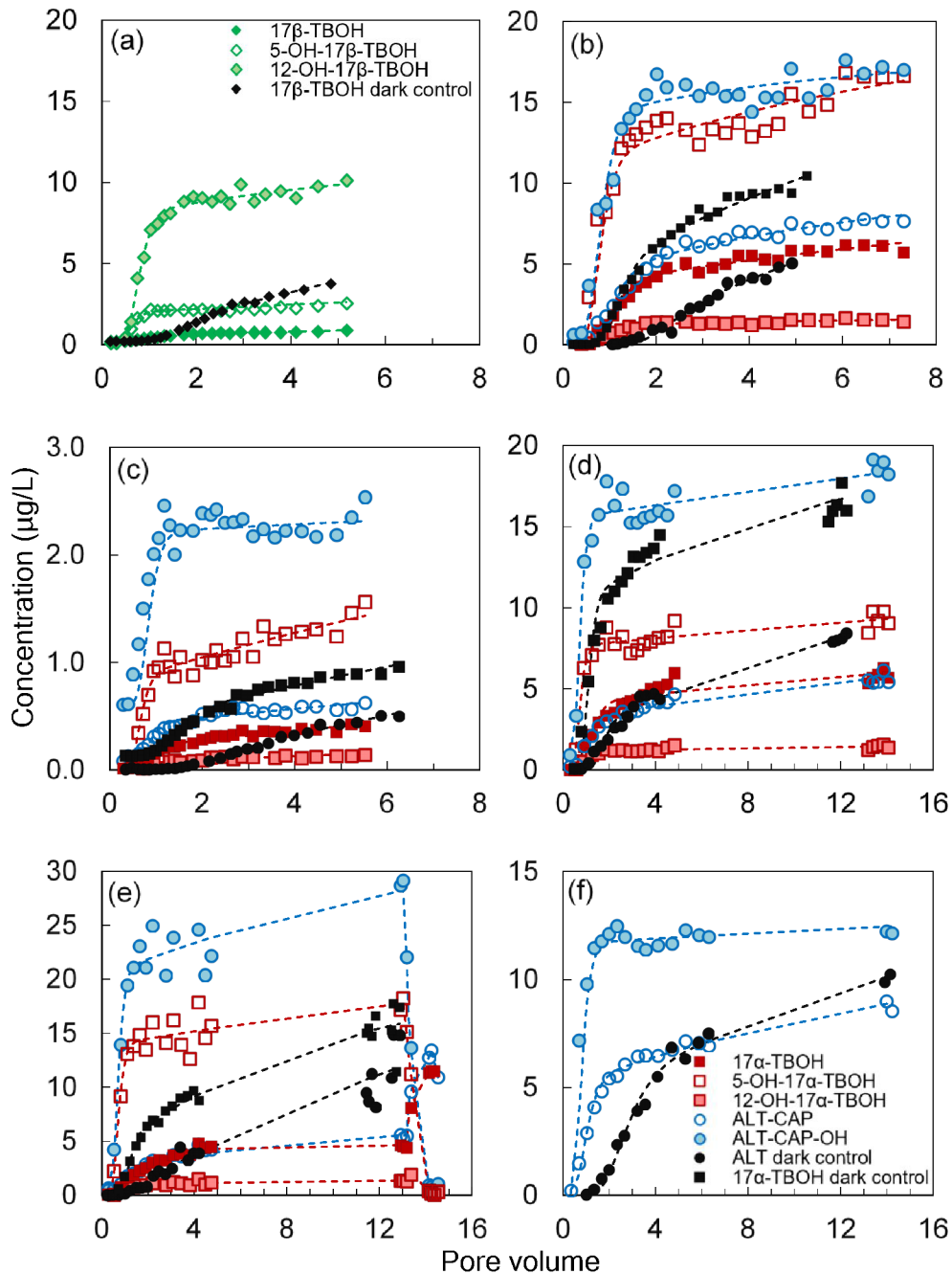
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26 488 Within any specific column trial, $\log R_{sol}$ were moderately correlated with $\log K_{ow}$ ($R^2 =$
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28 489 $0.40-0.55$, $p < 0.05$) (data not shown). In particular, correlations were especially skewed by
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31 490 $\log K_{ow}$ values for ALT-CAP and ALT-CAP-OH which were outliers in the dataset; stronger
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34 491 linear correlations between $\log R_{sol}$ and $\log K_{ow}$ values ($R^2 = 0.89-0.98$) were apparent if these
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37 492 outlier values were excluded (Figure 6). Notably, the relatively lower R_{sol} values for
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39 493 ALT-CAP, similar to 17 α - and 17 β -TBOH, was due to dehydration of ALT-CAP-OH during
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42 494 transport, which explains some of the outlier data. In addition, these correlations are most
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45 495 accurate within families of closely related structures; yet ALT-CAP and ALT-CAP-OH
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47 496 photoproduct structures are more distinct from the parent ALT due to the cycloaddition
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50 497 reaction which creates an additional steroid ring. In sum, these transport data consistently
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53 498 indicated that more pore volumes were needed for the more hydrophobic parent steroids to
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55 499 reach breakthrough and that polar photoproducts clearly have larger transport potential and

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4 500 shorter breakthrough times in soil-water systems relative to their parents.
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6 501 While prone to some uncertainty, we consider the R_{mod} values for parents as sufficiently
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8 502 accurate because they make sense and were estimated based on standard procedures.³⁹ In
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10 503 contrast, R_{sol} estimation is generally best for column systems with equilibrium transport⁵⁹ and
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12 504 R_{cal} is most accurate for complete sorption equilibrium in batch systems. Although these
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14 505 conditions were not fully met in these studies, R_{cal} and R_{sol} estimates were still included
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16 506 because R_{sol} and R_{cal} exhibited consistent trends as R_{mod} across all parents, indicating that
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18 507 these estimation approaches can be extended to photoproducts. Also, previous studies show
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20 508 that R_{sol} and R_{cal} values obtained under non-equilibrium conditions exhibited consistent
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22 509 trends as retardation factors obtained from other methods, despite potential bias caused by
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24 510 non-equilibrium transport or unequilibrated sorption.^{59, 60} Here, we consider R_{sol} and R_{cal}
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26 511 methods as system-specific methods that were appropriate to compare parent and
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28 512 photoproduct outcomes for these column systems. We do not recommend them for direct
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30 513 comparison with values reported in the literature.
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39 514 Consistent with diurnal cycling observed in previous studies,⁷ some thermal dehydration
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41 515 of photoproducts occurred in the column systems during transport studies (Figure 5). For
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43 516 example, 17α -TBOH photoproducts exhibited 21-32% thermal dehydration (experiments
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45 517 #2-4) during these experiments (~12 h), whereas 17β -TBOH products yielded 4.4%
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47 518 dehydration (experiment #1). These data were similar to reported values for 17α -TBOH
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49 519 (around 20-30% reversion after 12-24 h) and 17β -TBOH (around 2% reversion after 12 h)
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51 520 under static conditions.⁷ At longer time scales and higher temperatures (25 °C to 35 °C;
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4 521 experiment #5), observed 17 α -TBOH mass recovery increased from 23% (25 °C) to 58%
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6 522 (35 °C). These recovery data were consistent with reported dehydration rates,⁷ indicating that
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9 523 thermal dehydration in soil-water systems was generally independent of column transport
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11 524 hydraulics and surface conditions. The similar dehydration rates of 17 α - and 17 β -TBOH
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14 525 photoproducts in soil columns and static water indicated no effect of sorption on dehydration,
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16 526 which may be due to their low partitioning affinities and their substantial dissolved fraction
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19 527 dominating outcomes.
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Figure 5. Observed breakthrough curves of trienone steroids and related photoproducts in soil columns. Figures 5 a-f represent experiments 1-6 (conditions described in Figure 2), respectively. To emphasize the differential transport of parent steroids versus photoproducts in the column systems, the X and Y axes were rescaled for each figure to reflect measured concentrations.

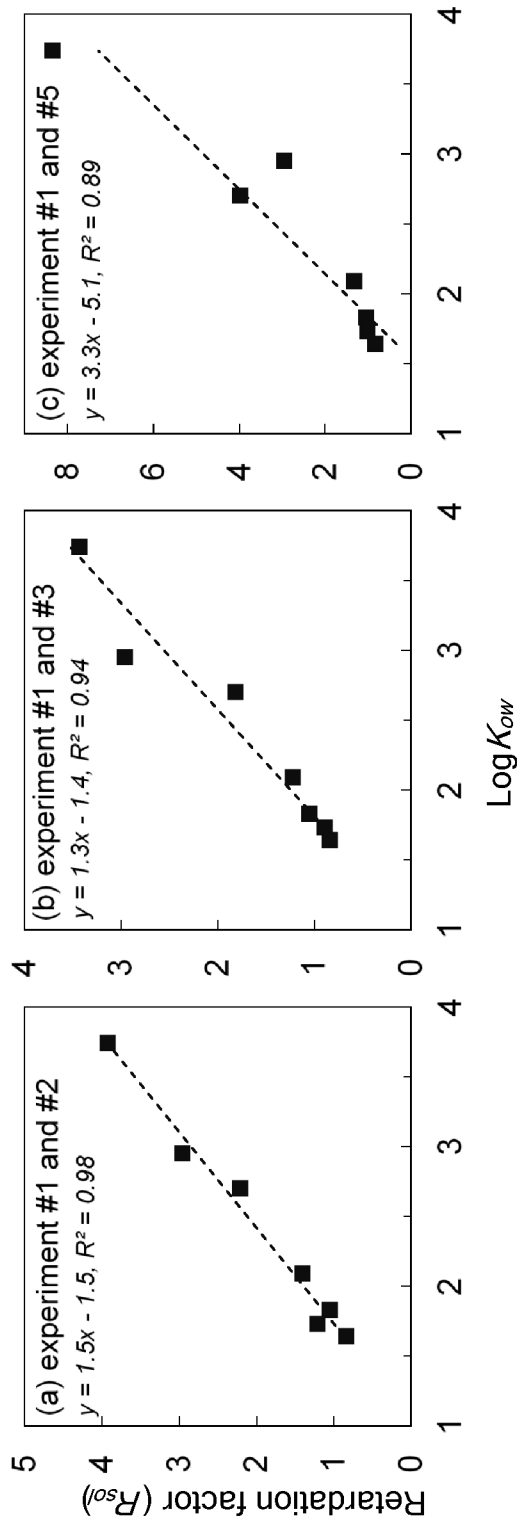


Figure 6. Observed correlations between retardation factors (as $\log R_{sol}$) and solute hydrophobicities (as $\log K_{ow}$). The compounds used for correlation included 5-OH-17 β -TBOH, 12-OH-17 β -TBOH, 5-OH-17 α -TBOH, 12-OH-17 α -TBOH, 17 β -TBOH, and ALT in dark columns.

538 4. Environmental Implications

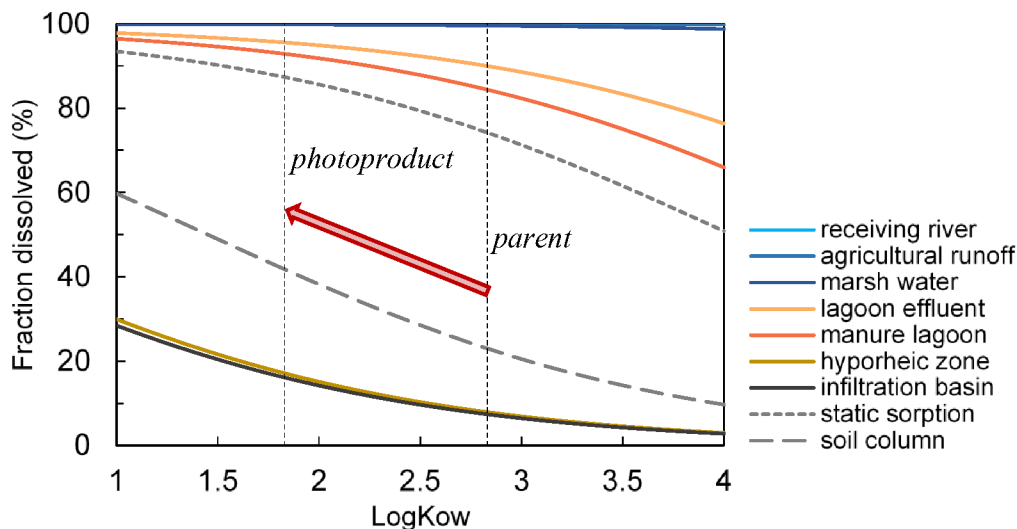
539 In this study, we evaluated batch sorption and column transport of four trienone steroids
540 (17α -TBOH, 17β -TBOH, TBO, ALT) and their respective known photoproducts in soil-water
541 systems. This effort investigated a dynamic reactive transport scenario where sorption,
542 transport, and phototransformation all occur over similar time scales. We anticipate these
543 coupled processes are important fate outcomes whenever ALT and TBA metabolites leach
544 from animal manures and occur in sunlit surface waters (e.g., agricultural runoff, irrigation
545 canals, vernal pools). In particular, the extreme photoreactivity of ALT, with 25-40 second
546 half-lives to ALT-CAP and ALT-CAP-OH, respectively, suggests that photoreaction and
547 photoproducts should dominate fate outcomes for this lightly studied potent steroid
548 pharmaceutical, although such outcomes have not been carefully considered in directed
549 studies.²¹

550 In batch systems, we observed reduced sorption of photoproducts in soil-sand mixtures
551 relative to parents ($\log K_{oc}$ difference of parent and photoproduct: 0.33-0.65). Consistent with
552 batch data, the estimated retardation factors from column studies were also well correlated
553 with estimated $\log K_{ow}$ values, indicating that photoproducts exhibited reduced retardation and
554 enhanced transport potential in soil-water systems. Therefore, building from the linear
555 correlation between $\log K_{oc}$ and $\log K_{ow}$ ($\log K_{oc} = 0.38 \log K_{ow} + 1.29$), we estimated the
556 expected dissolved fraction of trienone steroids ($\log K_{ow} = 1-4$) in several soil-water systems
557 representative of agroecosystems (Figure 7). In most surface waters (i.e., receiving river,
558 agricultural runoff, marshes), photoproduct formation would be expected to have little effect

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4 559 on the transport potential of trenone steroids due to the low availability of suspended
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6 560 particles for partitioning. However, for transport in agricultural systems with higher solids
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8 561 loadings (i.e., manure lagoon), or subsurface systems (i.e., hyporheic zones, shallow tile drain
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10 562 systems)⁶¹ and treatment (i.e., infiltration basins), a unit reduction of $\log K_{ow}$ (parent median
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12 563 $\log K_{ow}$: 2.83; photoproduct median $\log K_{ow}$: 1.83) can result in 5-10% increases in
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14 564 water-dissolved fractions and impacts to transport. This estimate is consistent with the
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16 565 column transport results where photoproducts consistently exhibited 2-5 fold lower
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18 566 retardation factors (i.e., R_{sol}) than corresponding parents. Based on such data, we anticipate
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20 567 that treatment efficiencies of agricultural runoff management measures (e.g., 30-60%
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22 568 17α -TBOH removal by subsurface infiltration, 70-90% by vegetative filter strips)²⁵ for
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24 569 trienone steroids would be overestimated if phototransformation was not considered.
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26 570 Moreover, these data indicate that parent steroids (TBA metabolites and ALT-CAP) can
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28 571 regenerate from photoproducts during soil-water transport, which extends the persistence of
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30 572 these steroids in soil-water systems.
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39 573 Our previous work has demonstrated the impact of product-to-parent reversion on fate
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41 574 consideration of trenbolone parents, indicating that reversion cycling affects transport in
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43 575 systems like hyporheic zones and increases persistence and alters bioactivity of trienone
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45 576 steroids in surface waters.⁶¹ Here, we demonstrate that the photohydration-dehydration
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47 577 cycling also increases the transport potential of trienone steroids in soil-water systems. Future
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49 578 studies on environmental fate of dienone and trienone steroids should consider
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51 579 photoproducts, including consideration of their physicochemical properties, reactivity and
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580 transport potential, to better understand the occurrence and ecological risks of these potent
 581 pharmaceuticals.



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 583 **Figure 7.** Predicted fraction of trienone steroids dissolved in water (i.e. mobile) as a function
 584 of $\log K_{ow}$ under conditions representative of model agro-ecosystems. Dashed black lines
 585 mark the median $\log K_{ow}$ values of the parent trienone steroids (2.83) versus values for
 586 photoproducts (1.83). The batch sorption and soil column systems represent experimental
 587 conditions described in this study. For model agricultural systems, manure lagoon and lagoon
 588 effluent represent conditions described for swine production (TSS of $2000 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ for
 589 manure lagoon and $1200 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ for lagoon effluent, with organic carbon content (f_{oc}) of
 590 40%).^{32, 62} Agricultural runoff, hyporheic zone, river, and marsh water represent potential
 591 transport pathways on manure-fertilized lands. The agricultural runoff and receiving water
 592 are modeled as a representative manured fields (TSS of $300 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ for agricultural runoff
 593 and $100 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ for receiving water, with f_{oc} of 1.3%),⁶³ and the hyporheic zone and marsh
 594 water conditions reflect typical reported values (hyporheic zone: porosity of 0.2, bulk density
 595 of $2.5 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, and f_{oc} of 0.5%; marsh water: TSS of $100 \text{ mg solids} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, f_{oc} of 20%).²⁵ For
 596 treatment systems, subsurface infiltration conditions are modeled as those reported for a
 597 grazing rangeland (porosity: 0.47, bulk density: $1.5 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, f_{oc} : 1.7%).³¹

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600 Funding Sources

601 This research was supported by United States Department of Agriculture (Grant No.
 602 2013-67019-21365).

603 Conflicts of Interest

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604 There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

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